

Sunday Night Message

July 30, 2017

Psalm 143

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 143

Introduction

"A Psalm of David."

This last section of psalms, beginning with Psalm 135 and continuing through Psalm 150, are mostly psalms of praise. This is also the fifth psalm of a mini-series of eight psalms of David, which are the last of the 73 psalms specifically attributed to him in the "Psalter" or "Song Book of Israel".

This particular psalm is an imprecatory psalm, calling for God to judge David's enemies.

The context of this particular psalm is not clear from the text. David is being attacked by someone. It could be that he is talking about King Saul.

I David's Persecution and Discouragement (vs. 1 – 4)

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness." (Psalm 143:1)

Notice the words, "prayer" and "supplications" They are obviously very similar and often synonymous. If there is any difference at all it would be that supplications have the idea of earnest prayer, or pleading with God. It goes beyond mere communication or a casual request, and conveys the idea of begging.

Notice that God is faithful. We may not always be faithful to God, but He is always faithful. He always does what He says he will do:

*"Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, **the faithful God**, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;"*
(Deuteronomy 7:9)

*"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: **but God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

"And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified." (Psalm 143:2)

Notice here that David understands that the basis of his prayer to God is God's lovingkindness and mercy, and His (God's) righteousness (v. 1); not on David's own righteousness. David knew that if he got what he deserved, he would be in worse shape than he was in here in this predicament.

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20)

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Galatians 2:16)

God can only hear us because of His righteousness that has been applied to our life through faith in His Son.

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:" (Romans 3:21-22)

"For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead." (Psalm 143:3)

Though the context of this psalm is unknown, it feels like these verses are referring to David's flight from Saul.

"Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate." (Psalm 143:4)

Negative circumstances can be very overwhelming, and can bring us into a deep valley of depression if we are not careful.

A loss of a loved one.

A bad report from the doctor.

A loss of a job.

Betrayal by a friend:

"For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company." (Psalm 55:12-14)

But, David was a child of God through faith, and because of that he could approach the throne of God and God would not only hear him, but He also would help him.

II David's Passion and Determination (vs. 5 – 6)

When you get this discouraged, the best thing that you can do is what David did: He remembered God.

*"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands."
(Psalm 143:5)*

Notice the words *meditate* and *muse*. They mean to think deeply or to ponder.

We can remember and meditate on what God has already done for us.

We can remember and meditate on what God has done for others.

We can be reminded that our problems are only temporary.

*"I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah."
(Psalm 143:6)*

*"My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"
(Psalm 42:2)*

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;" (Psalm 63:1)

*"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."
(Matthew 5:6)*

"Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." (John 7:37)

Amos wrote prophetically about a time when people would thirst after God's Word.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:" (Amos 8:11)

Illustration – When I was a boy I loved to play baseball, and I played in organized leagues for many years, but the little league was usually finished by the end of June. We wanted to keep playing after the organized leagues were finished so we organized our own neighborhood teams. I played for Birchwood Park, and we played against teams from Lake Riviera, Midstreams, Cherry Quay, and Herbertsville.

One very hot summer day we had a game scheduled against Lake Riviera. We were the home team, and since our neighborhood was next to the high school we played on one of fields that the high school team practiced on.

The temperature was near the hundred-degree mark, and only one kid on our team had enough common sense to bring a jug of water. There were 9 of us on the field that day, and only one jug of water. After sweltering out there in the field for a half hour or so we became extremely thirsty. The kid that brought the jug, at first, wasn't going to share with anybody, but he quickly realized that would be very dangerous to his health. Reluctantly, he agreed to let us each have just one swallow per person. The first guy that got the jug to his lips didn't follow the rules, and he turned away from the rest of us and proceeded to gulp down as much water as he could before the jug was ripped from his hands. By the time the jug got to me, there was hardly a few drops left. I don't remember ever being as thirsty as I was that day. I would have sold my birthright for a few more drops of cold water.

There is nothing like cold water when you are parched physically, and there is nothing like the Word of God when you are parched spiritually.

Sometimes God brings us through hot, barren, and dry life circumstances so that we will thirst for him.

David's Prayer and Deliverance (vs. 7 – 12)

A For Himself

1 Hear Me

"Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit." (Psalm 143:7)

There are times when God will not hear us:

God told Moses to stop bugging Him about his request to go into the Promised Land. It wasn't God's will. God will not hear you when you are requesting something that is not His will.

"But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter." (Deuteronomy 3:26)

If I have unconfessed sin that I have not repented of, God will not hear me.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" (Psalm 66:18)

2 Cause Me to Hear, Cause Me to Know

Sometimes it is us that has the hearing problem.

"Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." (Psalm 143:8)

3 Protect Me

"Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me." (Psalm 143:9)

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD." (Proverbs 21:31)

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Colossians 1:17)

4 Teach Me

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." (Psalm 143:10)

God uses these difficult trials to teach us about Himself. He brings us in closer to Himself when we are experiencing the difficulties of life.

5 Revive Me

"Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble." (Psalm 143:11)

Sometimes our circumstances can bring us to the point of death; perhaps not always physically, but oftentimes emotionally and spiritually. (read again vs. 3 & 4) God needs to breathe new life into us.

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me." (Psalm 138:7)

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Psalm 85:6)

B For His Enemies

"And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant." (Psalm 143:12)

This is an imprecatory request – a request for judgment.